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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JENNIFER HOOSE and SHEERA HARRIS,  
on behalf of themselves and all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

APPLE INC., a California corporation,

Defendant.

CASE NO.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiffs Jennifer Hoose (“Plaintiff Hoose”) and Sheera Harris (“Plaintiff Harris”)  
2 (together, “Plaintiffs”), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, and  
3 through their attorneys of record, allege the following against Apple Inc. (“Apple” or  
4 “Defendant”), based upon personal knowledge with respect to themselves, on information and  
5 belief derived from investigation of counsel, and review of public documents as to all other  
6 matters.

### 7 **INTRODUCTION**

8 1. This is a class action arising from Apple’s profiting from illegal gambling games  
9 developed by Product Madness, Inc. (“PM”) and offered, sold, and distributed by Apple through  
10 its App Store for consumers to download and play. Apple offers, sells, and distributes casino-style  
11 slot machines, casino-style table games, and other common gambling games to consumers through  
12 its App Store, which, for the reasons set forth herein, constitutes illegal gambling pursuant to the  
13 law of various states.

### 14 **PARTIES**

15 2. Plaintiff Hoose is an adult citizen and resident of the state of New York.

16 3. Plaintiff Harris is an adult citizen and resident of the state of Ohio.

17 4. Apple Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place of business in  
18 Cupertino, California.

### 19 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act  
21 of 2005 (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d). The amount in controversy exceeds the sum of  
22 \$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs, there are more than 100 putative class members, and  
23 minimal diversity exists because putative class members are citizens of a different state than  
24 Defendant.

25 6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it is authorized to and  
26 regularly conducts business in California and its principal place of business is in California.

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7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because Defendant resides in this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

8. Apple designs, manufactures, and markets smartphones, personal computers, tablets, wearables and accessories, and sells a variety of related services.

9. As part of the related services that it sells, Apple operates various platforms, including its App Store. The App Store is a digital distribution platform, developed and maintained by Apple, for mobile applications ("Apps") on its iOS & iPadOS operating systems. The App Store allows consumers to browse and download Apps developed with Apple's iOS Software Development Kit. Apps can be downloaded on the iPhone smartphone, the iPod Touch handheld computer, or the iPad tablet computer, and some can be transferred to the Apple Watch smartwatch or to 4th-generation or newer Apple TVs as extensions of iPhone Apps.

10. The Apps sold and delivered by Apple through the App Store are developed by third parties (*i.e.*, developers). As of October 2020, the App Store features around 1.96 million Apps available for download.<sup>1</sup>

11. Developers and Apple have several options for monetizing an App, including the "Freemium Model," which is utilized by Apple and Apps developed by PM that are the subject of this lawsuit.<sup>2</sup> Under the Freemium Model, consumers can download the App for free (*i.e.*, "free-to-play" Apps), but consumers are then offered optional additional in-app features that require payments (*i.e.*, "in-app purchases").<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.statista.com/statistics/276623/number-of-apps-available-in-leading-app-stores/> (last visited February 9, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> See <https://developer.apple.com/app-store/business-models/> (last visited January 29, 2021); <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT202023> (last visited January 29, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

12. Apple provides in-app payment processing services to iPhone app developers, including PM, and consumers through the App Store.<sup>4</sup>

13. Apple consumers who want to purchase an App or make in-app purchases through the App Store must pay money directly to Apple, which provides the payment interface. Apple consumers must create an Apple ID and register a valid method of payment to make payments to Apple for any purchases made through the App Store (including in-app purchases).<sup>5</sup>

14. Likewise, Apple mandates that App developers who offer and distribute their Apps in the App Store must process all payments for Apps and in-app purchases through Apple.<sup>6</sup> Apple takes a commission of up to 30% of all revenue generated by sales of Apps in its App Store and in-app purchases made on Apps obtained through the App Store.<sup>7</sup> Apple characterizes the commission as a fee for distribution of the App and the cost of running the App Store. The developer receives the remaining 70%.<sup>8</sup>

15. The Apps referenced herein could not be downloaded by Apple consumers, and Apple consumers would not be able to make in-app purchases, without Apple's offering and distributing of the Apps (and selling of coins through in-app purchases) through the App Store.

16. Apple also provides marketing guidance, tools, promotional offers, and more to help drive discovery of Apps and in-app purchases.<sup>9</sup> For example, Apple features select Apps on the App Store.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/22/apple-defends-app-stores-30percent-cut-ahead-of-tim-cook-testimony.html> (last visited March 3, 2021) (hereinafter "CNBC").

<sup>5</sup> See <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT202631> (last visited January 29, 2021).

<sup>6</sup> Damien Geradin and Dimitrios Katsifis, *The Antitrust Case Against the Apple App Store* (April 22, 2020), at 13, available at [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3583029](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3583029) (last visited January 29, 2021) (hereinafter "Geradin and Katsifis"); see also <https://developer.apple.com/in-app-purchase/> (last visited January 29, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/11/18/apple-will-cut-app-store-fees-by-half-to-15percent-for-small-developers.html> (last visited January 29, 2021).

<sup>8</sup> Geradin and Katsifis at 18-19, *supra* note 3.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://developer.apple.com/app-store/promote/> (last visited February 8, 2021).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

1           17.     When considering apps to feature, Apple’s editors look for high-quality apps across  
 2 all categories, with a particular focus on new apps and apps with significant updates. There is no  
 3 paid placement or checklist of requirements for apps the App Store features.<sup>11</sup>

4           18.     “[O]n average, the Apple App Store drives 50% of all app installs. Of that, roughly  
 5 21% of installs come from users who discover and install apps through browsing the featured apps  
 6 or sifting through app categories.”<sup>12</sup>

7  
 8           19.     Apple is also responsible, in part, for the creation or development of its Apps. Apple  
 9 encourages App developers to incorporate Apple’s “cutting-edge Apple technologies” into their  
 10 Apps “to create useful and engaging user experiences.”<sup>13</sup> For example, Apple urges developers to  
 11 “[i]ntegrate with Siri to let users can get things done using just their voice, use Apple Pay to sell a  
 12 variety of items directly from within your app, enable your apps to store app data in iCloud, and  
 13 much more.”<sup>14</sup> Apple contributes materially to the illegality of the casino-style apps referenced  
 14 herein by engaging in the foregoing conduct with PM.  
 15

#### 16                           **Casino-Style Apps Offered Through the App Store**

17           20.     Apple permits and facilitates illegal gambling by operating as an unlicensed  
 18 casino.

19           21.     Apple sells, offers, and distributes several free-to-play casino-style games (*i.e.*, slot  
 20 machines and casino-style table games) developed by PM through the App Store (“PM Casino  
 21 Apps”) for consumers to download and play, including, but not limited to, Cashman Casino,  
 22 FaFaFa Gold Casino, Lightning Link Casino, and Slots: Heart of Vegas.

23     ///

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 25 <sup>11</sup> <https://developer.apple.com/app-store/discoverability/> (last visited February 8, 2021).

26 <sup>12</sup> <https://www.storemaven.com/ios-12-and-app-store-personalization/?trafficSource=newsletter&cmpn=ios12updates> (last visited February 8, 2021).

27 <sup>13</sup> See <https://developer.apple.com/programs/> (last visited February 9, 2021).

28 <sup>14</sup> *Id.*

22. When a consumer downloads and initially opens a PM Casino App, the consumer is given free “coins” or “chips” to start with, *i.e.*, 100,000 or 1,000,000 to play the game. The PM Casino Apps work essentially like a casino slot machine or other Las Vegas-style games like blackjack, roulette, poker, keno, bingo, and other card and gambling games. A loss results in a loss of coins or chips, but the consumer has an opportunity to win additional coins or chips. Ultimately, the consumer will run out of coins or chips and will be prompted to use real money to purchase additional coins or chips for the chance to continue playing the game.

23. Consumers do not have the ability to collect actual cash as a result of “winning” games, but they do have the ability to win and therefore acquire more playing time.

24. Paying money in a game for a chance to win more playing time violates the anti-gambling laws of the twenty-five states that are at issue in this case. *See* Ala. Code § 13A-12-20 (Alabama); Ark. Code Ann. § 16-118-103 (Arkansas); Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-278a (Connecticut); OCGA § 16-12-20 (Georgia); 720 ILCS 5/28-1 (Illinois); IC §35-45-5-1 (Indiana); KRS 528.101 (Kansas); Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 137, § 1 (Massachusetts); MN ST § 609.75 (Minnesota); MS ST § 87-1-5 (Mississippi); Mo. Rev. Stat. § 572.010 (Missouri); MT Code § 23-5-112(14) (Montana); N.H. Rev. Stat. § 647.2 (New Hampshire); N.J. Stat. § 2C:37-1 (New Jersey); N.M. Stat. § 30-19-1 (New Mexico); N.Y. Penal L. 225.00 (New York); Ohio Rev. Code § 2915.01 (Ohio); Or. Rev. Stat. § 167.117 (Oregon); S.C. Code § 32-1-10 (South Carolina); S.D. Codified Laws § 22-25A (South Dakota); Tenn. Code § 39-17-501 (Tennessee); 13 V.S.A. § 2141 (Vermont); Va. Code § 18.2-325 (Virginia); Wash. Rev. Code § 9.46.010 (Washington); W. Va. Code §61-10-5 (West Virginia).

25. In 2019, people in the United States lost approximately \$3.5 billion playing “free-to-play” Apps like the PM Casino Apps.<sup>15</sup> Despite the fact these PM Casino Apps do not offer an opportunity to win real money or prizes, the money spent by consumers to purchase additional

<sup>15</sup> *See* <https://www.king5.com/article/life/wellness/social-casino-free-to-play-gambling-addiction-help/281-e79beef2-9ca6-4d9d-9e92-b99042f1d1cc> (last accessed January 28, 2021) (hereinafter, “King5”).

1 coins or chips to continue playing the Apps can lead to devastating consequences for those who  
2 get addicted.<sup>16</sup>

3 26. A study analyzing “free-to-play” casino-style Apps stated:

4 [Researchers] found that [free-to-play] casino gamers share many similar  
5 sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., employment, education, income) with  
6 online gamblers. Given these similarities, it is perhaps not surprising that a strong  
7 predictor of online gambling is engagement in [free-to-play] casino games. Putting  
8 a dark line under these findings, over half (58.3%) of disordered gamblers who  
9 were seeking treatment stated that social casino games were their first experiences  
10 with gambling.

11 . . .

12 According to [another study], the purchase of virtual credits or virtual items makes  
13 the activity of [free-to-play] casino gaming more similar to gambling. Thus, micro-  
14 transactions<sup>17</sup> may be a crucial predictor in the migration to online gambling, as  
15 these players have now crossed a line by paying to engage in these activities.  
16 Although, [sic] only 1–5% of [free-to-play] casino gamers make micro-  
17 transactions, those who purchase virtual credits spend an average of \$78. Despite  
18 the limited numbers of social casino gamers purchasing virtual credits, revenues  
19 from micro-transactions account for 60% of all [free-to-play] casino gaming  
20 revenue. Thus, a significant amount of revenue is based on players’ desire to  
21 purchase virtual credits above and beyond what is provided to the player in seed  
22 credits.<sup>18</sup>

23 27. Most of the revenue earned from these casino-style Apps (*i.e.*, 80-90%) is made  
24 from a small portion (*i.e.*, about 3%) of their players, who are specifically targeted because of the  
25 large amounts they will spend.<sup>19</sup>

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27 <sup>16</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>17</sup> “Microtransactions, often abbreviated as MTX, are a business model where users can  
purchase virtual goods with micropayments. Microtransactions are often used in free-to-play  
games to provide a revenue source for the developers.”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microtransaction> (last visited February 9, 2021).

<sup>18</sup> Hyoun S. Kim, Michael J. A. Wohl, *et al.*, *Do Social Casino Gamers Migrate to Online Gambling? An Assessment of Migration Rate and Potential Predictors*, Journal of gambling studies / co-sponsored by the National Council on Problem Gambling and Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming (Nov. 14, 2014), available at <http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10899-014-9511-0.pdf> (citations omitted).

<sup>19</sup> King5, *supra* note 15.

1           28.     Nate Halverson, a journalist with Reveal from the Center for Investigative  
2 Reporting said:

3           They're using artificial intelligence to target those specific players who, like [a  
4 woman] I reported on will spend \$400,000. She didn't have \$400,000.

5           In a regular casino, they would have seen that she didn't have the income to be  
6 spending \$400k. Further, she asked them nearly a dozen times to cut her off, told  
7 them she had a problem, that she couldn't stop spending. And what did they do?  
They just gave her free chips and encouraged her to keep spending. That wouldn't  
happen in a real casino. This is a wild west; this is a lawless land.<sup>20</sup>

8           29.     Governments across the world have acted to limit the availability of micro-  
9 transaction-based games of chance (like the PM Casino Apps) due to their similarity to games of  
10 chance found in actual casinos.<sup>21</sup> Regrettably, such games have avoided regulation in the United  
11 States, resulting in thousands of consumers spending millions of dollars to become addicted to  
12 these unlawful games that they downloaded from the App Store, while Apple earns a substantial  
13 profit.

14           30.     Since Apple is responsible, in part, for the creation or development of the PM  
15 Casino Apps and provides the *sole* means by which PM Casino App developers can offer,  
16 distribute, and sell their PM Casino Apps to Apple consumers (i.e., through the App Store), Apple  
17 functions as an information content provider for the subject PM Casino Apps.

18           31.     Accordingly, Apple actively enables, permits, promotes, and profits from illegal  
19 gambling.

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23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 <sup>20</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>21</sup> In late August 2014, South Korea began regulating "social gambling" games, including  
26 games similar to the PM Casino Apps, by "ban[ning] all financial transactions directed" to the  
27 games. PokerNews.com, *Korea Shuts Down All Facebook Games In Attempt To Regulate Social*  
28 *Gambling* | *PokerNews*, <https://www.pokernews.com/news/2014/09/korea-shuts-down-facebook-games-19204.htm> (last visited Feb. 11, 2019). Similarly, "the Maltese Lotteries and Gambling Authority (LGA) invited the national Parliament to regulate all digital games with prizes by the end of 2014." *Id.*



**The History of Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses**

32. Purportedly, “[i]n the seventeenth and eighteenth centur[ies], gambling among the British gentry was rampant.”<sup>22</sup> Problems were created for England’s land-based aristocracy because of large transfers of wealth or property related to gambling. This problem apparently led the English in 1710 to adopt “[a]n Act for the better preventing of excessive and deceitful gaming,” 9 Anne, ch. 14 (1710), which is known as the *Statute of Anne* (named after Britain’s then reigning Queen).<sup>23</sup>

33. “England’s *Statute of Anne*...provided for a recovery action by the losing gambler, or any other person on the gambler’s behalf, for gambling debts already paid.”<sup>24</sup> It stated, in pertinent part, that:

[A]ny Person . . . who shall . . . by playing at Cards, Dice, Tables, or other Game or Games whatsoever, or by betting on the Sides or Hands of such as do play any of the Games aforesaid, lose to any . . . Person . . . so playing or betting in the whole, the Sum or Value of ten Pounds, and shall pay or deliver the same or any Part thereof, the Person . . . losing and paying or delivering the same, shall be at Liberty within three Months then next, to sue for and recover the Money or Goods so lost, and paid or delivered or any Part thereof, from the respective Winner . . . thereof, with Costs of Suit, by Action of Debt . . . .<sup>25</sup>

34. The twenty-five states at issue here – Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia – have enacted civil remedy

<sup>22</sup> Ronald J. Rychlak, *The Introduction of Casino Gambling: Public Policy and the Law*, 64 Miss. L.J. 291, 296 n.32 (1995).

<sup>23</sup> State of Tennessee Office of the Attorney General, *Applicability of Statute of Anne Provisions Regarding Gambling*, Opinion No. 04-046 (March 18, 2004), available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/attorneygeneral/documents/ops/2004/op04-046.pdf> (last visited January 28, 2021).

<sup>24</sup> Joseph Kelly, *Caught in the Intersection Between Public Policy and Practicality: A Survey of the Legal Treatment of Gambling-Related Obligations in the United States*, 5 Chap. L. Rev. 87 (2002).

<sup>25</sup> An Act for the Better Preventing of Excessive and Deceitful Gaming, 1710, 9 Ann. c. 14, § 2 (Eng.).

1 statutes designed to curtail excessive gambling losses based on legal principals adopted from the  
2 *Statute of Anne*.

3 35. These states have similar statutes that prohibit profiting from unlawful gambling  
4 activity and provide a statutory civil cause of action to recover money paid and lost due to  
5 gambling: Ala. Code § 8-1-150; Ark. Code Ann. § 16-118-103; Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-554; OCGA  
6 § 13-8-3; 720 ILCS 5/28-8; IC 34-16-1-2; KRS 372.020; Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 137, § 1; MN ST §  
7 541.20; MS ST § 87-1-5; Mo. Rev. Stat. § 434.030; MT Code § 23-5-131; N.H. Rev. Stat. § 338:3;  
8 N.J. Stat. § 2A:40-5; N.M. Stat. § 44-5-1; N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law §§ 5-419, 5-421; Ohio Rev. Code  
9 § 3763.02; Or. Rev. Stat. § 30.740; S.C. Code § 32-1-10; S.D. Codified Laws § 21-6-1; Tenn.  
10 Code § 28-3-106; 9 V.S.A. § 3981; Va. Code § 11-15; Wash. Rev. Code § 4.24.070; and W. Va.  
11 Code § 55-9-3 (“Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses”).

### 12 **Facts Specific to Plaintiffs**

13 36. Prior to February 2020, Plaintiff Hoose downloaded two (2) PM Casino Apps,  
14 Cashman Casino and Lightning Link Casino, on her iPhone from the App Store. Plaintiff Hoose  
15 initially played the PM Casino Apps for free, but eventually purchased coins through in-app  
16 purchases (paid directly to Apple) so she could continue playing. Plaintiff Hoose purchased coins  
17 in increments of \$.99, \$1.99, \$4.99, and \$5.99 on multiple occasions. In the three (3) months prior  
18 to the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiff Hoose paid a minimum of \$30.00 in coin purchases to  
19 Apple to continue playing PM Casino Apps.

20 37. In early 2020, Plaintiff Harris downloaded two (2) PM Casino Apps, Cashman  
21 Casino and Lightning Link Casino, on her iPhone from the App Store. Plaintiff Harris initially  
22 played the PM Casino Apps for free, but eventually purchased coins through in-app purchases  
23 (paid directly to Apple) so she could continue playing. Plaintiff Harris purchased coins in  
24 increments of \$2.99, \$5.99, \$9.99, \$11.99, \$19.99, and \$29.99 on multiple occasions. In the six  
25 (6) months prior to the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiff Harris paid a minimum of \$190.00 in coin  
26 purchases to Apple to continue playing PM Casino Apps.

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38. Accordingly, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, seek to recover money paid and lost due to gambling on the PM Casino Apps pursuant to state law, as set forth herein.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

39. Pursuant to the provisions of Rules 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and the following Multistate Class and State Classes (collectively “Class”):

**Multistate Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

**Alabama State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Alabama.

**Arkansas State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Arkansas.

**Connecticut State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Connecticut.

**Georgia State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Georgia.

**Illinois State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Illinois.

**Indiana State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Indiana.

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**Kentucky State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Kentucky.

**Massachusetts State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Massachusetts.

**Minnesota State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Minnesota.

**Mississippi State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Mississippi.

**Montana State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Montana.

**New Hampshire State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in New Hampshire.

**New Jersey State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in New Jersey.

**New Mexico State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in New Mexico.

**New York State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in New York.

**Ohio State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Ohio.

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**Oregon State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Oregon.

**South Carolina State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in South Carolina.

**South Dakota State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in South Dakota.

**Tennessee State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Tennessee.

**Vermont State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Vermont.

**Virginia State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Virginia.

**Washington State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in Washington.

**West Virginia State Class:**

All persons who paid money to Apple for coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps and reside in West Virginia.

40. Excluded from the Class are PM and its officers, directors, legal representatives, successors, subsidiaries, and assigns; Apple itself, any entity in which Apple has controlling interests, and Apple's officers, directors, legal representatives, successors, subsidiaries, and assigns; and any judicial officer presiding over this matter, members of their immediate family, members of their judicial staff, and any judge sitting in the presiding court system who may hear an appeal of any judgment entered.

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41. Certification of Plaintiffs' claims for classwide treatment is appropriate because Plaintiffs can prove the elements of their claims on a classwide basis using the same evidence as would be used to prove those elements in individual actions asserting the same claims.

42. This action has been brought and may be properly maintained on behalf of the Multistate and/or State Classes proposed herein under Rule 23 of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure and satisfies the numerosity, commonality, typicality, adequacy, predominance, and superiority requirements of its provisions.

43. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend the Multistate and State Class definitions based on information learned through discovery.

44. **Numerosity. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1).** Consistent with Rule 23(a)(1), the members of the Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed that the joinder of all members is impractical. While the exact number of class members is unknown to Plaintiffs at this time, there are millions of reviews for some gambling Apps, suggesting that at least hundreds of thousands of people have downloaded and played the subject PM Casino Apps. The members of the Class can be readily identified through Apple's records.

45. **Commonality and Predominance. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2) and (b)(3).** This action involves common questions of law and fact that predominate over any questions affecting individual Class members. The common questions include, but are not limited to:

- a. Whether Defendant engaged in the conduct alleged herein;
- b. Whether these virtually identical PM Casino Apps offered and distributed by Apple for download and for sale of in-app purchases through Defendant's App Store violate the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses;
- c. Whether gambling for additional playtime constitutes a thing of value under the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses;
- d. Whether Defendant violated the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses through its active participation in the promotion and sale of in-app purchases through the App Store;

///

e. Whether Plaintiffs and the Class members are entitled to recover the money they lost on the PM Casino Apps under the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses;

f. Whether Defendant has been unjustly enriched under applicable state laws; and

g. Such other common factual and legal issues as are apparent from the allegations and causes of action asserted in the Complaint.

46. **Typicality. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3).** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of other Class members' claims because Plaintiffs and Class members were subjected to the same allegedly unlawful conduct and damaged in the same way, *i.e.*, they all lost money to Apple in an effort to win additional playtime on the PM Casino Apps.

47. **Adequacy. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4).** Consistent with Rule 23(a)(4), Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the Class. Plaintiffs have the best interests of the members of the Class in mind. Plaintiffs have no conflicts of interest with the Class. Plaintiffs' counsel are competent and experienced in litigating class actions, including extensive experience in consumer protection claims. Plaintiffs intend to vigorously prosecute this case.

48. **Superiority. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).** A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of these claims because individual joinder of the claims of all members of the Class is impracticable. Many members of the Class are without the financial resources necessary to pursue this matter. Even if some could afford to litigate claims separately, such a result would be unduly burdensome to the courts in which the individualized cases would proceed. Individual litigation increases the time and expense of resolving a common dispute concerning Defendant's actions toward an entire group of individuals. Class action procedures allow for far fewer management difficulties in matters of this type and provide the unique benefits of unitary adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision over the entire controversy by a single judge in a single court.

49. The Class may be certified pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby

1 making final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief appropriate with respect to the  
2 claims raised by the Class.

3 50. The Class may also be certified pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of  
4 Civil Procedure because questions of law and fact common to members of the Class will  
5 predominate over questions affecting individual members, and a class action is superior to other  
6 methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy and causes of action described in  
7 this Complaint.

## 8 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

### 9 **COUNT I**

#### 10 **VIOLATION OF CIVIL REMEDY STATUTES** 11 **FOR RECOVERY OF GAMBLING LOSSES**

12 51. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the preceding paragraphs, as if fully set forth  
13 herein.

14 52. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of themselves and the Multistate Class under  
15 the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses, which are materially uniform in the  
16 states of Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts,  
17 Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New  
18 York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington,  
19 and West Virginia. In the alternative, Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of each State Class  
20 under the Civil Remedy Statute for Recovery of Gambling Losses enacted under the law of each  
21 state.

22 53. The twenty-five states identified above have enacted the following Civil Remedy  
23 Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses, all of which are materially similar and were designed  
24 to effectuate the states' public policy against gambling.

25 a. Ala. Code § 8-1-150(a) ("Any person who has paid any money or delivered  
26 any thing of value lost upon any game or wager may recover such money, thing, or its value by an  
27 action commenced within six months from the time of such payment or delivery.");  
28



1           b.     Ark. Code Ann. § 16-118-103(a)(1)(A)(i) (“Any person who loses any  
2 money or property at any game or gambling device, or any bet or wager whatever, may recover  
3 the money or property by obtaining a judgment ordering the return of the money or property  
4 following an action against the person winning the money or property.”);

5           c.     Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-554 (“Any person who, by playing at any game, or  
6 betting on the sides or hands of such as play at any game...loses the sum or value of one dollar in  
7 the whole and pays or delivers the same or any part thereof, may, within three months next  
8 following, recover from the winner the money or the value of the goods so lost and paid or  
9 delivered....”);

10          d.     OCGA § 13-8-3(b) (“Money paid or property delivered upon a gambling  
11 consideration may be recovered from the winner by the loser by institution of an action for the  
12 same within six months after the loss and, after the expiration of that time, by institution of an  
13 action by any person, at any time within four years, for the joint use of himself and the educational  
14 fund of the county.”);

15          e.     720 ILCS 5/28-8(a) (“Any person who by gambling shall lose to any other  
16 person, any sum of money or thing of value, amounting to the sum of \$50 or more and shall pay  
17 or deliver the same or any part thereof, may sue for and recover the money or other thing of value,  
18 so lost and paid or delivered, in a civil action against the winner thereof, with costs, in the circuit  
19 court...”);

20          f.     IC 34-16-1-2 (“If a person, by betting on a game or on the hands or sides of  
21 persons playing a game: (1) loses any money or other property; and (2) delivers any part of the  
22 money or other property; the person may bring a civil action, within one hundred eighty (180)  
23 days, to recover the money or other property so lost and delivered.”);

24          g.     KRS 372.020 (“If any person loses to another at one (1) time, or within  
25 twenty-four (24) hours, five dollars (\$5) or more, or anything of that value, and pays, transfers or  
26 delivers it, the loser or any of his creditors may recover it, or its value, from the winner, or any  
27 transferee of the winner, having notice of the consideration, by action brought within five (5) years  
28 after the payment, transfer or delivery.”);

1           h.       Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 137, § 1 (“Whoever, by playing at cards, dice or other  
2 game, or by betting on the sides or hands of those gaming, except for gaming conducted in licensed  
3 gaming establishments pursuant to chapter 23K, loses to a person so playing or betting money or  
4 goods, and pays or delivers the same or any part thereof to the winner, or whoever pays or delivers  
5 money or other thing of value to another person for or in consideration of a lottery, policy or pool  
6 ticket, certificate, check or slip, or for or in consideration of a chance of drawing or obtaining any  
7 money, prize or other thing of value in a lottery or policy game, pool or combination, or other bet,  
8 may recover such money or the value of such goods in contract....”);

9           i.       MN ST § 541.20 (“Every person who, by playing at cards, dice, or other  
10 game, or by betting on the hands or sides of such as are gambling, shall lose to any person so  
11 playing or betting any sum of money or any goods, and pays or delivers the same, or any part  
12 thereof, to the winner, may sue for and recover such money by a civil action, before any court of  
13 competent jurisdiction.”);

14           j.       MS ST § 87-1-5 (“If any person, by playing at any game whatever, or by  
15 betting on the sides or hands of such as do play at any game...or by any wager whatever, shall lose  
16 any money, property, or other valuable thing, real or personal, and shall pay or deliver the same or  
17 any part thereof, the person so losing and paying or delivering the same, or his wife or children,  
18 may sue for and recover such money, property, or other valuable thing so lost and paid or delivered,  
19 or any part thereof, from the person knowingly receiving the same, with costs.”);

20           k.       Mo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 434.030 (“Any person who shall lose any money or  
21 property at any game, gambling device or by any bet or wager whatever, may recover the same by  
22 a civil action.”);

23           l.       MT Code § 23-5-131 (“A person, or the person’s dependent or guardian,  
24 who, by playing or betting at an illegal gambling device or illegal gambling enterprise, loses  
25 money, property, or any other thing of value and pays and delivers it to another person connected  
26 with the operation or conduct of the illegal gambling device or illegal gambling enterprise, within  
27 1 year following the person’s loss, may: (1) bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction  
28 to recover the loss; (2) recover the costs of the civil action and exemplary damages of no less than

1 \$500 and no more than \$5,000; and (3) join as a defendant any person having an interest in the  
 2 illegal gambling device or illegal gambling enterprise.”);

3 m. N.H. Rev. Stat. § 338:3 (“If any person shall receive any money or property,  
 4 won by him upon any bet or wager as aforesaid, he shall be liable to the person losing it, in an  
 5 action of assumpsit, trover or other form proper to recover it; and any security given for the  
 6 payment of such loss shall be void.”);

7 n. N.J. Stat. § 2A:40-5 (“If any person shall lose any money, goods, chattels  
 8 or other valuable thing, in violation of section 2A:40-1 of this title, and shall pay or deliver the  
 9 same or any part thereof to the winner, or to any person to his use, or to a stakeholder, such person  
 10 may sue for and recover such money, or the value of such goods, chattels, or other valuable thing,  
 11 from such winner, or from such depository, or from such stakeholder, whether the same has been  
 12 delivered or paid over by such stakeholder or not, in a civil action provided such action is brought  
 13 within 6 calendar months after payment or delivery.”);

14 o. N.M. Stat. § 44-5-1 (“Any person who shall lose any money or property at  
 15 any game at cards, or at any gambling device, may recover the same by action of debt, if money;  
 16 if property, by action of trover, replevin or detinue.”);

17 p. N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 5-419 (“Any person who shall pay, deliver or  
 18 deposit any money, property or thing in action, upon the event of any wager or bet prohibited,  
 19 may sue for and recover the same of the winner or person to whom the same shall be paid or  
 20 delivered, and of the stakeholder or other person in whose hands shall be deposited any such wager,  
 21 bet or stake, or any part thereof, whether the same shall have been paid over by such stakeholder  
 22 or not, and whether any such wager be lost or not.”); § 5-421 (“Every person who shall, by playing  
 23 at any game, or by betting on the sides or hands of such as do play, lose at any time or sitting, the  
 24 sum or value of twenty-five dollars or upwards, and shall pay or deliver the same or any part  
 25 thereof, may, within three calendar months after such payment or delivery, sue for and recover the  
 26 money or value of the things so lost and paid or delivered, from the winner thereof.”);

27 q. Ohio Rev. Code § 3763.02 (“If a person, by playing a game, or by a wager,  
 28 loses to another, money or other thing of value, and pays or delivers it or a part thereof, to the

1 winner thereof, such person losing and paying or delivering, within six months after such loss and  
 2 payment or delivery, may sue for and recover such money or thing of value or part thereof, from  
 3 the winner thereof, with costs of suit.”);

4           r.       Or. Rev. Stat. § 30.740 (“All persons losing money or anything of value at  
 5 or on any unlawful game described in ORS 167.117 (Definitions for ORS 167.108 to 167.164 and  
 6 464.270 to 464.530), 167.122 (Unlawful gambling in the second degree) and 167.127 (Unlawful  
 7 gambling in the first degree) shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer winning the  
 8 same, or proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such money or thing of  
 9 value won, twice the amount of the money or double the value of the thing so lost.”);

10           s.       S.C. Code § 32-1-10 (“Any person who shall at any time or sitting, by  
 11 playing at cards, dice table or any other game whatsoever or by betting on the sides or hands of  
 12 such as do play at any of the games aforesaid, lose to any person or persons so playing or betting,  
 13 in the whole, the sum or value of fifty dollars and shall pay or deliver such sum or value or any  
 14 part thereof shall be at liberty, within three months then next ensuing, to sue for and recover the  
 15 money or goods so lost and paid or delivered or any part thereof from the respective winner or  
 16 winners thereof, with costs of suit, by action to be prosecuted in any court of competent  
 17 jurisdiction.);

18           t.       S.D. Codified Laws § 21-6-1 (“Any person who shall lose any thing of value  
 19 at any game, or by betting on any game, may recover the same or the value thereof from any other  
 20 person playing at the game at which such thing was lost, or from the person with whom the bet  
 21 was made, or from the proprietor of the place where the game was played, in a civil action, in  
 22 which such proprietor and all persons engaged in the game may be joined as parties; provided that  
 23 such action shall have been commenced within six months after the date of such loss.”);

24           u.       Tenn. Code § 28-3-106 (“Actions to recover money or goods lost at any  
 25 kind of gambling or betting, and paid or delivered: (1) If brought by the loser, shall be commenced  
 26 within ninety (90) days next after such payment or delivery; (2) If brought for the use of the spouse,  
 27 child or children, or next of kin, within twelve (12) months from the expiration of the ninety (90)  
 28

1 days; (3) If by a creditor of the loser, within twenty-four (24) months from the end of the ninety  
2 (90) days.”).

3 v. 9 V.S.A. § 3981 (“A person who pays money or other valuable thing lost at  
4 a game...may recover the value thereof of the person to whom it was paid in a civil action, if  
5 commenced within one month from the time of payment.”);

6 w. Va. Code § 11-15 (“Any person who shall, by playing at any game or betting  
7 on the sides or hands of such as play at any game, lose within twenty-four hours, the sum or value  
8 of five dollars, or more, and pay or deliver the same, or any part thereof, may, within three months  
9 next following, recover from the winner, the money or the value of the goods so lost and paid or  
10 delivered, with costs of suit in civil action, either by suit or warrant, according to the amount or  
11 value thereof.”);

12 x. Wash. Rev. Code § 4.24.070 (“All persons losing money or anything of  
13 value at or on any illegal gambling games shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer  
14 or player winning, or from the proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such  
15 money or things of value won, the amount of the money or the value of the thing so lost.”); and

16 y. W. Va. Code § 55-9-3 (“If any person shall lose to another within twenty-  
17 four hours \$10 or more, or property of that value, and shall pay or deliver the same, or any part  
18 thereof, such loser may recover back from the winner the money or property, or in lieu of the  
19 property the value thereof, so lost, by suit in court, or before a justice, according to the amount or  
20 value, brought within three months after such payment or delivery....”).

21 54. The Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses prohibit a person  
22 from profiting from gambling activity and provide for the recovery of money paid and lost due to  
23 such gambling activity.

24 55. By purchasing coins from Apple to wager on the PM Casino Apps, Plaintiffs and  
25 each member of the Multistate Class gambled and lost money within the meaning of the Civil  
26 Remedy Statute for Recovery of Gambling Losses.

27 56. Apple has profited and continues to profit from gambling activity in violation of  
28 the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses by: (1) providing marketing guidance,

1 tools, promotional offers and more to help drive discovery of PM Casino Apps and in-app  
 2 purchases; (2) contributing to the creation and development of PM Casino Apps by encouraging  
 3 PM to incorporate Apple technologies into the Apps; and (3) offering and distributing the PM  
 4 Casino Apps through the App Store and selling in-app purchases for the PM Casino Apps in  
 5 exchange for a significant percentage of the money paid and lost by Plaintiffs and the members of  
 6 the Class to gamble using the PM Casino Apps.

7 57. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class are, therefore, entitled to recover from  
 8 Apple the amounts they lost when gambling on the PM Casino Apps through the App Store.

## 9 **COUNT II**

### 10 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

11 58. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the preceding paragraphs, as if fully set forth  
 12 herein.

13 59. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of themselves and the Multistate Class under  
 14 the common law of unjust enrichment, which is materially uniform in the states of Alabama,  
 15 Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota,  
 16 Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio,  
 17 Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West  
 18 Virginia. In the alternative, Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of each State Class under the  
 19 common law of each state, which is materially uniform in all such states.

20 60. As a result of its unlawful conduct described above, Apple has and will continue to  
 21 be unjustly enriched to the detriment of Plaintiffs and Class members by virtue of their purchase  
 22 of coins from Apple to wager on the PM Casino Apps through the App Store.

23 61. Apple has profited immensely by providing marketing guidance, tools, and  
 24 promotional offers to PM.

25 62. These profits were obtained in violation of the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery  
 26 of Gambling Losses.

27 63. These profits were a benefit conferred upon Apple by Class members when  
 28 purchasing coins to wager on the PM Casino Apps.

64. Accordingly, because Apple will be unjustly enriched if it is allowed to retain the illegal profits from the PM Casino Apps, Plaintiffs and each Class member are entitled to recover the amount by which Apple was unjustly enriched at their expense.

### **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the Multistate Class and State Classes, respectfully request that the Court grant certification of the proposed Multistate Class and State Classes, including the designation of Plaintiffs as the named representatives of the Multistate Class and their respective State Classes, the appointment of the undersigned as Class Counsel, and the designation of any appropriate issue classes and/or subclasses, under the applicable provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, and that the Court enter judgment in Plaintiffs' favor and against Apple, as follows:

A. Injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiffs and Class members, including but not limited to, an order prohibiting Defendant from engaging in the wrongful and unlawful acts described herein;

B. An award of compensatory, consequential, and general damages, including nominal damages, as allowed by law in an amount to be determined;

C. An award of statutory damages and punitive damages, as allowed by law in an amount to be determined;

D. An award of restitution or disgorgement, in an amount to be determined;

E. An award of attorneys' fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as allowed by law;

F. Prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded; and

G. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

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**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class of all others similarly situated, hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Dated: March 9, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Daniel L. Warshaw

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